EIR and advised to apply for Industrial licence;

(e) whether Government are aware that such a decision would delay the implementation of projects; and

(f) if so, what steps are being taken to reconsider the decision and process applications received before the announcement of Industrial Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) As per the new Industrial Policy, the EIR scheme, introduced *vide* notification No. 629 (E) dated 30-6-88, stands abolished.

(b) In terms of the new Industrial Policy, subject to Drug Policy, drug and pharmaceutical items are covered in the list of industries in respect of which industrial licensing is compulsory.

(c) It was as a part of industrial policy liberalisation, the EIR scheme was introduced in June, 1988.

(d) to (f) As the EIR scheme stands abolished, EIR applications that are pending have been returned to the applicants with the advice that they might follow the new liberalised licensing policy and procedures.

Import of edible oil and foreign exchange involved

1646. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what according to the latest estimation is the overall shortage of edible oils in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have since taken a decision to import edible oils to bridge the gap between demand and supply of edible oils;

(c) if so, how much edible oil is being imported every year for the last five years;

(d) if so, the quantity of edible oils proposed to be imported and the amount of foreign exchange involved in the imports; and

(e) what is its likely impact on the domestic prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The likely shortfall of edible oils in the Oil Year 1990-91, is estimated at about 6 lakh tonnes.

(b) Government is exploring the possibility of import of deible oil.

(c) The import of edible oils during the last five oil-years was as under:—

Oil-year (Nov.-Oct.)	Quantity (in lakh MTs)
1985-86	11·79
1986-87	14·97
1987-88	18·19
1988-89	3·73
1989-90	6·07
1990-91 (upto Aug, '91)	0·90

(d) The Government have not yet decided the exact quantity to be imported.

(e) Import of edible oil increases the availability of the commodity in the country and hence, keeps the prices reasonable in the open market. The extent of impact largely depends on the quantity of imported edible oil releasd for distribution and is issue price.